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OLC/GLC/jmd  
21 November 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Background of Unclassified Reports  
Published by Office of Research and Reports

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for the approval of the Director of Central Intelligence. Such recommendation is contained in paragraph 8.
2. Since January 1960, the Office of Research and Reports has been distributing unclassified research reports to certain universities and to selected individual scholars. In all, 63 such reports have been so distributed. (See Attachment A.) The present list of recipients includes 73 university libraries (Attachment B) and 245 individuals (Attachment C). Most of the reports deal with individual economic resources or industries in the USSR; the others concern Communist China and the Eastern European Communist countries.
3. ORR's distribution of unclassified reports was authorized by the Director in late 1959. This action was in furtherance of the recommendation of a Senior Advisory Panel of ORR consultants, made up of leading scholars in the academic community, that the Agency should

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make the results of its unclassified economic research available to the academic community. The Panel felt strongly that such a move would be of great benefit both to the Agency and to outside scholars.

4. The Agency has benefited greatly from this limited public distribution of unclassified research reports. The response of the academic community has been uniformly favorable and no problems have arisen. The Agency has acquired a reputation as a producer of scholarly research on foreign economies, and its relationships with the academic community have been greatly improved. As a result, the Agency's effort to recruit qualified economists has been greatly facilitated. In addition, prospective applicants can see actual research products of the Agency.

5. The preparation of these unclassified reports has been a normal part of ORR's research program, and the topics are selected to serve the needs of intelligence. The only additional costs to the Agency are those of printing and distributing an extra 500 copies of reports that would be printed anyway.

6. ORR's unclassified reports carry a notation on the front cover, "not to be reproduced in whole or in part without the permission of the Central Intelligence Agency." Although this caveat is not legally binding, it has proved effective thus far in controlling to some extent the use that is made of the reports. Scholars receiving these reports seem to consider themselves privileged recipients and, to the best of our knowledge, have

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invariably abided by the caveat. The reports carry an additional notation on the inside of the front cover that the report has been "loaned" to the recipient. This language, used since July 1962, was worked out by agreement between CIA and the U. S. Superintendent of Documents to avoid having these reports fall in the category of documents for "public" distribution, which would require dissemination by the Government Printing Office to all requesters.

7. In recent months, the Agency has received a number of congressional inquiries requesting permission for the publication of various unclassified Agency documents or monographs. In several instances, the documents involved have been ORR publications. It is the opinion of the General Counsel that once these documents are published, they are in the public domain and may be reprinted by anyone, despite the caveats previously mentioned. General Counsel and Legislative Counsel recommend<sup>1</sup> that the use of the present caveats be discontinued since they could become a springboard for a congressional group, such as the Moss Subcommittee, to level a criticism at the Agency on the ground of an unwarranted<sup>2</sup> attempt to control the dissemination of unclassified information.

8. With your approval, we shall continue to publish unclassified research reports, without the caveats presently used, and with the understanding that, once published, these reports could be reprinted in some congressional or other media.

R. J. Smith

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Attachments:

- A. Economic Area Unclassified Studies
- B. Recipients of ORR Unclassified Reports
- C. Library Distribution of ORR Unclassified Reports

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OCH/E/RR: [REDACTED] (20 Oct 66)  
Redrafted: OLC/JSWarner [REDACTED] jmd (21 Nov 66)

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